Enharmonicon

The 30th UK filk convention

Best Western Marks Tey

2-4 February 2018

Programme book

Hello!

Welcome to Enharmonicon, the 30th UK Filk convention. Some of you are joining us for the first time; some of you are shaking your heads in disbelief, convinced that Contabile was just the other week.

So many things have happened in those thirty years, and this weekend we'll be taking some time to reminisce and to introduce newer attendees to the history of the UK filkcons. From trying to recognise much, much younger versions of ourselves in the old photos that Rafe has kindly provided, to testing our memories (and some rather niche skills) during the anniversary shenanigans on Saturday night, we have a lot planned. Look out for the Sams exhibition and concert in the alternative programming room on Saturday, and take a moment to admire the glorious Filt brought in by Kathy, itself celebrating its quarter-century birthday this weekend. Also, there are rumours of cake. We're liking this con already.

Whether this is your first con or your thirtieth, we want to make sure you have an enjoyable, stress-free weekend. (We're not banking on the latter for ourselves, but we hear from previous concoms that dropping subtle hints about plying the concom with chocolate can be surprisingly effective. Just saying.) Please do take a moment to read through the code of conduct on the next page. There are pronoun stickers at reception; checking people's pronouns will help us make this a happier space. And do find a Duty Committee Member to speak to if you have any concerns. You'll recognise the concom member on duty by the Fabulous Scarf of Much Sparkliness.

So come on in - pull up a chair, chat to old friends, make new friends, enjoy music both aethereal and bizarre (sometimes even at the same time) and sing your little hearts out. And here's to the next thirty, and beyond.

The committee

Code of conduct

We aim to make Enharmonicon a safe and happy environment for all our attendees. We know our community is, overall, an inclusive and welcoming one, but we understand that problems can arise, and have procedures in place to deal with them. Please take the time to read the code of conduct below, and help us make Enharmonicon a fun and trouble-free event.

We will not tolerate discrimination or harassment on the grounds of gender, race, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity or disability – or anything else. We expect all the convention members to treat each other with respect.

If you feel you are being harassed, or if someone is making you feel uncomfortable, please speak to them about the behaviour you are finding inappropriate, or come and speak to the Duty Committee Member (or any other committee member). If you notice someone else behaving in a manner that makes you uncomfortable, again, please come and discuss it with us.

We will take any comments or complaints very seriously and do our best to hear all sides of the situation in order to make sure we are reacting appropriately and fairly. We will treat all matters with discretion. If we are unable to mediate a solution between the parties involved, we may take further steps, including but not limited to issuing a warning, revoking a membership without refund and requesting that the person leave the convention, or, in serious cases, involving the hotel staff or the police.

We reserve the right to pass on details of any serious breaches of the code of conduct to future committees of the UK filk convention for their information.

Overseas Guest of Honour: Betsy Tinney
(by Sunnie Larsen)

Betsy Tinney is magic expressed as song. With her sweet smile, nimble fingers, and swaying body (and a little help from her electronic looper pedal) she coaxes stories from the depths of her cello and gifts them to her listeners as a rich musical experience. Her songs inspire feelings that are tender, mournful, contented, intensely fierce, excitedly joyful, calming, or silly--sometimes several of these all in the same song!

Betsy's cello speaks, and we see mice dancing, whales breaching, snow falling, elephants dreaming, dragons pining for the moon, and wyverns enjoying a delightful vintage. She weaves tales of puppies zooming joyfully across the yard, cats chasing moths on the kitchen table, and mysterious drummers who capture our imagination. When you have the privilege of listening to Betsy perform, she will transport you to places you hadn't dreamed could exist and won't want to leave (if you find yourself feeling this way, you can take those places home with you by acquiring one of her two delightful albums, Release the Cello and Wyverns in the Winery!)

Betsy hails from the green and gorgeous Pacific Northwest region of the USA, where she and her family share the home with menageries of musical instruments and animals (and new musical animals that occasionally sneak in by way of the recording studio).

UK Guests of Honour: The Crooklets
(by Marilisa Valtazanou)

Way back in the run-up to Dixseption, Deborah Crook started coming to nMC rehearsals as an accompanist. I remember her telling me early on that she was just getting ready for her twins' sixth birthday, and that she also had a seven-year-old son. "That's cute", I thought. Little did I, or the rest of UK Filk, know what was about to hit us.

The next thing we knew was that the aforementioned three cute small children were on stage during the main concert, doing an exuberant cover of Christo's Alien Salad Abduction. But the thing is, they weren't just three cute small children - they were three really, really good tiny musicians. And so it all began.

Over the next few years, they've gone on to win several Sams awards between them. They've knocked the socks off the UK filkcon many a time, and went on to do the same as guests at FilkCONtinental a few years ago. And they just keep getting better and better.

Those three cute small children are now three pretty phenomenal adults, each off doing their own fabulous thing in the world, but still performing together as one of the most kick-ass, talented bands filkdom has ever had the joy of knowing. Between them, they wield three violins, an oboe, a trombone, and goodness knows what else, as well as three rich voices. They have a wicked sense of humour and a knack for subtle (and not-so-subtle) parody. They do beautiful arrangements of their own and other people's songs, by turns heartbreaking and hilarious.

Every time I watch them perform, my jaw just drops a little bit further towards the floor. They may be waaaaay younger than I am, but I still want to be them when I grow up.

Lovely attendees of Enharmonicon - we give you your UK guests, Alistair, Abi, and Rachel Crook. Whether this is your first time hearing the Crooklets, or you've been enjoying their music for years, you are in for an absolute treat.

Special Guest of Honour: Ωmega
(by Annie Griffith)

Ωmega is one of those people who just seems to have always been there. I can't remember meeting her or being introduced to her, but I just… knew her. Whatever the occasion, Eastercon, WiGGLe, Filkcon, she was in the bar with a pint, a SMOF-jacket and and a smile.

If I'm honest, I was a little intimidated by her when I first got talking – she knows EVERYONE, I think. Sitting with her in a con bar is an exercise in meeting new people, hearing unsuspected things about old friends and laughing quite a lot.

Because if there's one quality that I tend to associate with Ωmega, it is good humour and a willingness to just get stuck into whatever needs doing with the minimum of fuss. She's been there with a wise word and a pint on more than one occasion when newbie con-runner me was turning myself inside out with worry because something wasn't going to plan. I believe she was the one who gave me what I consider to be the wisest filkcon-running advice ever: "It'll be fine. You've got to actually try really hard to ruin a filkcon – as long as there are people and a hotel, they will have fun. Stop stressing. Have a drink." If my memory is incorrect and it wasn't her, it should have been.

And that calm, unflappable attitude has carried through into her current place in filk fandom – the Sams Creatatrix (I just made that up, but it should totally be her title). Whilst it's lovely to win an award because… well, it's an award… I do think that no-one would be nearly so fussed if they weren't so stunningly beautiful. I had NO idea that Omega could make 3D art like that, and every year they just seem to get better. We're lucky to have a few pieces of her art in our household (although they are packed for moving at the moment!), and I envy everyone who wins one because they are beautiful things.

So, my recommendation is to take a moment to get to know Ωmega a little bit better. I'm guessing that a pint of something Real wouldn't go amiss, and sit down to chat, laugh and make a new friendship, or cement an old one. The time will be VERY well spent, I promise you!

The committee

Katie Howe

KT unwittingly wandered into Filk at a roleplaying convention and never quite left. Like Emily, KT has the dubious pleasure of sharing the con's 30th year with her own… the more excuses for cake the better! She can usually be identified by trailing crochet yarn and/or the Dark Looming Presence often beside her.

Emily January

Emily came to Filk in 2001 and hasn't managed to shake it off since. She is very excited to be involved in running the 30th annual UK Filk Con in her own 30th year. She can usually be identified by her brightly coloured dresses and pockets full of theatre stubs.

Jackie Mitchell

Jackie has hardly paused for breath between being the guest of honour at Quoi De Neuf and taking on committee duties for Enharmonicon. Jackie found filk about eight years ago, and has since performed in a variety of filk musicals, sung with the nMC, been an Interfilk guest in Seattle, and been on the committee for Semibreve. A scientist, operatic soprano, multi-instrumentalist, and serial volunteer, Jackie can be identified by her multi-coloured hair and assortment of unusual pets.

Marilisa Valtazanou

Marilisa was sneakily lured into filk in 2001 by her friend Peter, who uttered the irresistible phrase "I have a harp in my room". Since then, she has performed with a number of bands and ensembles, chaired the 26th UK filk convention, and attended filk cons in four countries. She can be identified as the concom member shlepping around an unnecessary number of instruments while chasing after her child.

The programme

Sams workshops

Ωmega is running a series of workshops over the weekend for people to make their own Sam award statuettes. There are limited places, so if you have not signed up in advance, please check with Ωmega or a committee member to see if there is space. Some slots are scheduled in the programme, but the alternative programme room will be available during most of the convention and Ωmega is happy to negotiate suitable times – Friday evening in the bar may be a good time for negotiations! (All materials supplied)

FRIDAY

19:45–20:00 Opening Ceremony

Welcome to Enharmonicon

20:00–20:30 Chris Malme

The country's premier Minstrel cover act.

20:30-21:00 Christo

Songs of aliens, salads, jellyfish, space stations, hatstands & FISH!

21:00–22:00 Overseas Guest of Honour: Betsy Tinney

The first concert from our overseas Guest of Honour, Betsy Tinney.

22:00–22:30 Workshop: Ωmega (alternative room)

Starting your Sams – for anyone planning a complicated paint-job, or wanting to get inspiration to start plotting a design. Others may prefer to start on Saturday.

22:00–late (or early next morning...): Open filking

Both the main and alternative rooms will be available from 22:30 for open circles; the main room will be available earlier.

SATURDAY

10:30–11:00 Workshop: Ωmega (alternative room)
Starting your Sams

11:00–11:15 Filk Fund Business meeting
A short meeting about the Filk Fund

11:15–11:30 Bid Session
Is there anybody out there...?

11:30 –12:00 Bill & Brenda Sutton
Oh, Dear Ghod, They're Back...

12:00–14:00 Lunch/Filk Gold Concert (alternative room)
An informal concert of songs from previous Filk Gold Sams winners, alongside an exhibition of as many Sams awards as we could gather in one place, in the alternative programme room. Feel free to drop in and out with your lunch.

14:00–15:30 Main Concert
Open to everyone (solo or group) to perform a one-shot. Please sign up in advance at the con registration desk.

15:30–16:00 Talis Kimberley & Band
Talis hasn't told Betsy yet what songs they'll be exploring together, and we don't know either, but it's likely there will be whimsy and wonder with a dash of fierce going on. Talis and Betsy have danced musically together before, and expect to have fun, and hope you will too.

16:00–16:30 Quarries and Corridors
To celebrate their 10th anniversary UK Filk Convention, Nat performs a selection of their favourite filk songs, some reworded, reworked or reimagined, others polished by time. So come along to where the fandom sings, and hear bardic tales of ancient wizards, late night singing and spacefaring critters. Nat may have been two decades late to the party, but we're making up for it now!

16:30–17:00 Filk Fund Auction I
The first of two Auction slots.

16:30–17:00 Workshop: Ωmega (alternative room)
Next steps

17:00–18:00 UK Guest of Honour: The Crooklets
The first concert from our UK Guest of Honour, The Crooklets

18:00–20:00 Dinner

20:00–21:00 Overseas Guest of Honour: Betsy Tinney
The second concert from our overseas Guest of Honour, Betsy Tinney.

21:00–21:30 Magic, Myth and Mayhem
FanTom presents songs, old and new, about magic and mythology.

21:30–22:30 Anniversary shenanigans
Time to look back on the last 30 years of UK filk conventions. Expect laughter, tears, conundrums, and cake. Please note that this item will start with a short segment commemorating friends no longer with us; if you'd rather not be in the room for this, a committee member will open the door and let people in the bar know when it's over.

22:30–as long as we last: Open Filk
The main room is available from 23:00 for open circles; the alternative room from earlier.

SUNDAY

10:00–11:00 Aquapella (pool)
Singing in the rain... or maybe in the pool.
Probably in the pool; it's warmer.

11:00–12:00 Workshop: Ωmega (alternative room)
Finishing touches.

11:00–12:00 Workshop: Instrumental Improvisation (with Betsy Tinney & Sunnie Larsen)
This one-hour workshop is geared towards instrumentalists; all levels of players are welcome. If you love to improvise, come and join us! And if you wish you could improvise but the idea terrifies you, then definitely come and join us - this is the workshop for you! We'll introduce improvisation concepts through a series of fun and low-key improv games and exercises, and work our way up to (cooperative) group improvisation. Bring your instruments and add your tune to the tapestry!

12:00–12:30 A Mixed Bag
Lisa performs traditional songs, tunes, and tales. Audience participation is welcome

12:30–14:00 Lunch

14:00–15:00 n'Early Music Consort (nMC)
An hour of choral filk from the UK's filk choir.

15:00–15:30 Filk Fund Auction II
The second of two Auction slots.

15:30–16:00 Sams Award Ceremony
The presentation of this year's Sam Awards.

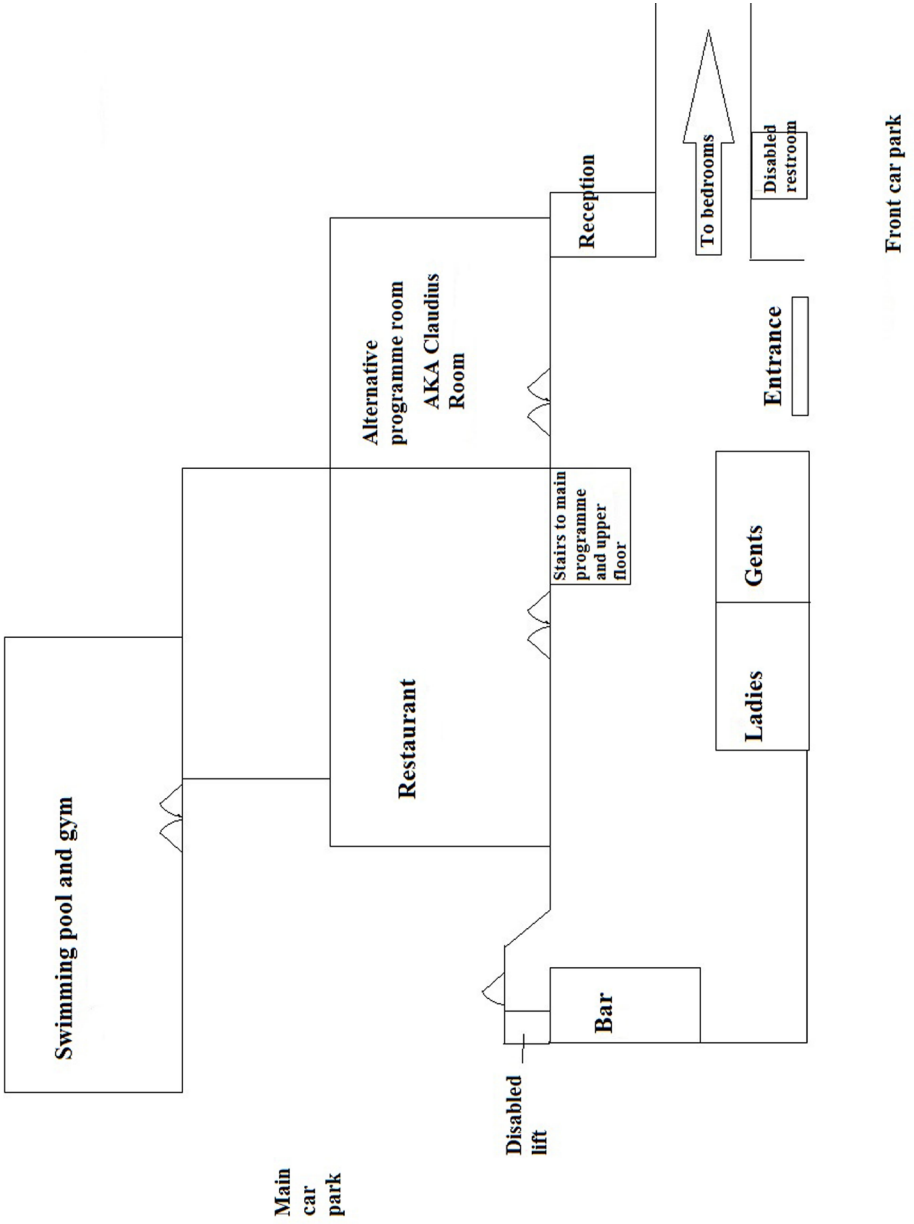
16:00–17:00 Guest of Honour: The Crooklets
A second concert from UK Guest of Honour The Crooklets

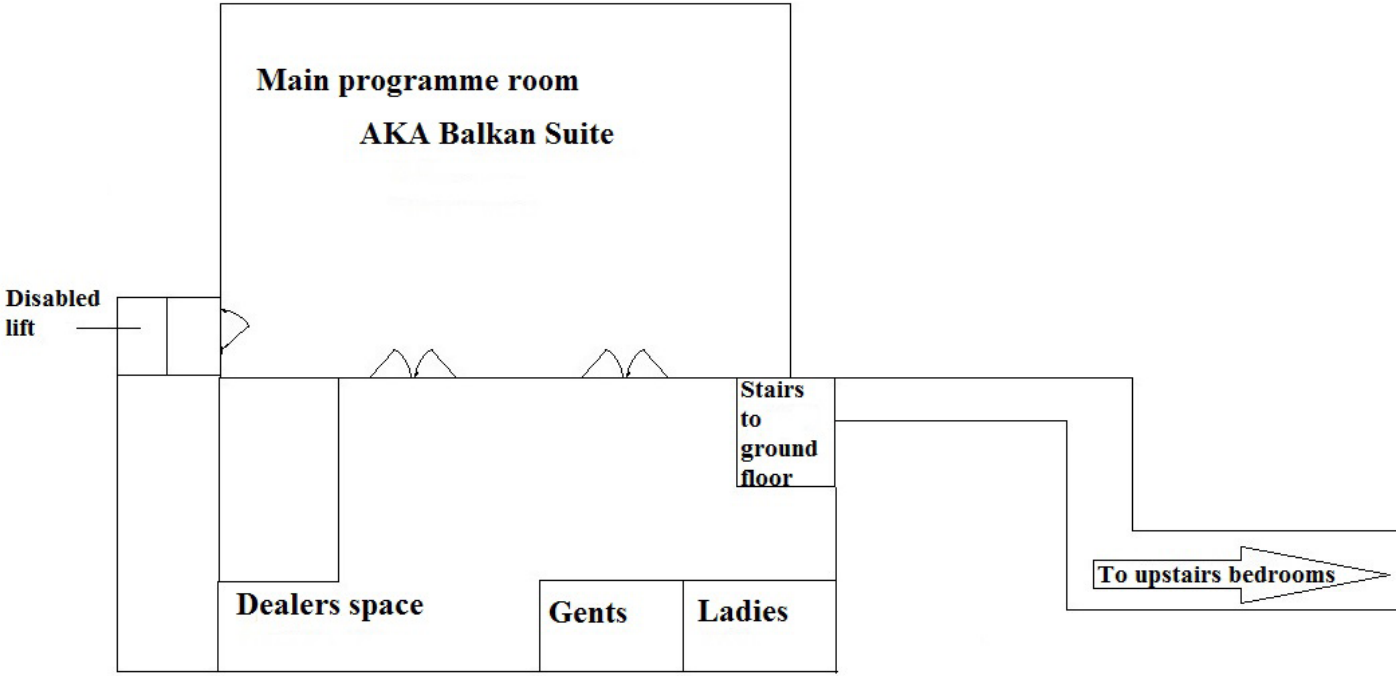
17:00–17:30 Sams Award Concert
A chance to hear this year's Sam Awards winners.

17:30–18:00 Closing Ceremony
Goodbye, Enharmonicon.

20:00–the bitter end: Undead Dog Filking (alternative room)
The closing circle of the con. Nooooo!

The hotel


Swimming pool and gym
Restaurant
Alternative programme room
AKA Claudius Room
Reception
Stairs to main programme and upper floor
Bar
Disabled lift
Ladies
Gents
Entrance
To bedrooms
Disabled restroom
Main car park
Front car park


Main programme room
AKA Balkan Suite
Disabled lift
Stairs to ground floor
To upstairs bedrooms
Dealers space
Gents
Ladies

Essential hotel information

Programme rooms
The main programme room is the Balkan Suite on the upper floor. There is a disabled lift to access this, which can be found down the corridor past the bar. Alternative programming will be in the Claudius room off the reception area/lobby. The Dealers room will be the lobby outside the Balkan suite. As this is only separated from the main programme room by simple doors, please keep the volume down when in this area during performances.

Breakfast
Breakfast is 7.30-10.30 in the restaurant. There are also options outside the hotel, primarily 'The Bungalow Diner' (from 7am Saturday/8am Sunday).

Room keys
Yes, you can get 2 keys to your bedroom if you want.

Room costs
Room costs are below so you can calculate what your bill should be at checkout (before any costs you charge to your room during the con).

Single room £60.00 room/£68 with breakfast
Double/ Twin £68.00 room/£75 with breakfast
Adjoining room (2 adults, 2 kids) £115.00 room/£155 with breakfast
Adjoining room (4 adults) £130/£155 with breakfast

We did specify to the hotel where we expect people to be splitting the cost of a twin room, but it would probably still help to check out together.

Checkout
Checkout is at 12noon on Sunday and 11am on Monday.

Luggage store
If you are checking out on Sunday, you can store your luggage in the Dedham room on the ground floor.

Lunch and dinner
An economic lunch and dinner will be provided by the hotel in addition to the bar food menu. You can pre-order food for specific times so that it is available when you come out of programme items. Place these orders at the bar. Cream Teas MUST be pre-ordered.

Tea & coffee
These will be available in the upstairs bar area on a serve-yourself honour system. Please pay at the bar for this.

Bar
The bar will be open as late as they can manage. Please do investigate the real ales and ciders.

Ales
Colchester No.1 – 4.1%
Jack Spitty – 4% - hoppy gold

Ciders
Westons Raspberry Twist – 4.0%
Westons Rosie's Pig – 4.8%

Wi-Fi
There is complimentary Wi-Fi access at the hotel that you can auto register for online. They swear that it will keep up with our level of usage…

No streaming on their Wi-Fi, however.

Nearby restaurants etc.

If you come out of the hotel and turn right there are a range of places at a 5-minute saunter from the hotel. (Note: we've checked these as thoroughly as the internet allows, but can't vouch for info being correct at the time of the con!)

- **The Bungalow Diner** - http://www.bungalowdiner.co.uk/ American diner food. 7am–10pm Fri/Sat; 8am–10pm Sun
- **Jane's Pantry** - Sandwiches to go. 5am–1pm Sat; closed Sun
- **Premier Supermarket** (has the closest cashpoint, but that charges £1 to withdraw money). 5am–9pm
- **Chinese takeaway and a Chip Shop** 5pm–12pm Fri/Sat; 5pm –11pm Sun
- **Jhaal Indian restaurant**. Sit down or take away. http://www.jhaal.co.uk/ 5pm-11pm Fri-Sat; 12pm–10:30pm Sun
- **Mini pharmacy** 8.30am–5.30pm Fri, 9am–2pm Sat

If you come out of the hotel and turn left there are a range of chain restaurants and a large Sainsbury's (with free cashpoints) 2 miles down the road. Buses run this way but car is probably best.

- 1 mile ish - The Swan Inn (Hungry Horse)
- A bit further - The White Hart (Toby Carvery) and Banquet Chinese restaurant - http://www.banquet1408.co.uk (No children under 7 after 7.30pm)
- 2 miles - Frankie & Bennys, Chiquito, McDonalds, Harvester, Sainsbury's

Petrol

Previous concoms recommend getting fuel at the Sainsbury's as it is cheaper. You can access the A12 from the nearby junction as desired.

A word from the tech crew

Tech equipment is expensive. Please do not risk spilling drinks on it! And (says Deborah) don't push Rob into the microphoniums. Please.

We'll be using the digital desk again this year. If you'd like to be involved, do come and chat when things don't look frantic, and there will be a set-by-set sign-up sheet if you'd like to help. We are happy to have volunteers at all levels, from 'beginner/front of house only' to 'can run the desk myself' - please indicate which you are on the sign up sheet.

If you have a set, please talk to us to arrange a sound check beforehand.

We will be recording most of the sets. Please note that:
(a) we won't release it without permission
(b) you're welcome to a copy of the multitrack of your own set if you'd like it
(c) if you really don't want us to, please tell us and we won't.

And finally, we'll welcome help when it comes to packing the kit away on Sunday.

The Main Concert

The Main Concert will take place on Saturday afternoon, and is your chance to perform a song or two to an audience. There will be a sign-up sheet at the registration desk or on the bar in the dealers' room until we break for lunch on Saturday.

We will try to accommodate as many people as we can, and may limit each performer to one song in order to let more people participate.

The Filk Fund Auction

The Filk Fund covers the airfares of our overseas guests. The auction raises money for the Filk Fund to be able to continue to introduce us to wonderful people and lovely music from across the world.

Roger Robinson is unable to join us this year, so we are left with the unenviable task of filling his shoes. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help.

Dealers' table

In Roger's absence, we are setting up a rota of volunteers to help us run a small dealers' table, for limited times during the convention. This will involve sitting at the table, selling CDs etc. to fellow con attendees, and keeping track of the takings. Please let us know if you are willing to help.

Freecycle table

Also in the same place will be a table with items people have brought in to give away to a good home (and that's where you should take any items you may have brought in!) Feel free to browse the table and take anything that grabs your fancy. And if you've brought in things, please remember to check at the end of the convention and take anything that hasn't found a home back with you so we don't have to.

Flash photography

Some of our members are sensitive to flash photography. Please keep it to a minimum, and respect any requests to stop using it. If in doubt, please speak to a committee member.

The Sams awards

The categories for Sams nominations are

- Best Serious Song (written in the last 4 years)
- Best Silly Song (written in the last 4 years)
- Filk Gold (for any song outside the 4 year window without
- a previous UK award)
- At Con award (for the most memorable song/performance at the convention itself). This award is for the performance, not the song. The song may have won previously.

Nominations for this year's awards close at 12:30 on Sunday.
Please write nominations on the whiteboard in the dealer's room.
You will find lists of previous winners nearby as songs that have already won an award in the UK are ineligible.

Recording policy

Members who wish to record parts of the convention for their own use may do so, always subject to the wishes of the performers concerned. However, remember the basic principles, and note that these apply to circles as well as to main programme items.

1. The con is for the listeners

If you are recording, please keep your recording equipment out of people's way, avoid trailing wires, and avoid disturbing other people's enjoyment as you use it. That means no loud clicks, no asking the performer to wait while you change a tape or to do a "sound check", etc. Note that with modern equipment there should be no need to change media during a set (MDs last for at least 74 minutes on standard, MP3 recorders much longer).

2. Any recordings are FOR PERSONAL USE ONLY

Broadcast, copying for another's use, or other distribution (which includes MP3s on a web site) is prohibited without the explicit permission of everyone involved (that includes all performers, song and tune writers).
This doesn't mean that you can't take it home and play it to the wife and kids, or to a neighbour who's interested, but treat it the same as a rental video. If you have all the permissions, there's no problem.
This also means that if you are asked not to record or photograph something, you must not do so. There are filkers who, for whatever reason, will not perform if there is anything recording -- they have a right to be heard, you do not have a right to go against their wishes. For this reason, no unattended recording will be permitted. If you need to pop to the loo or bar, always leave someone you trust (or failing that, a fellow filker!) in charge of the "off" switch.

Thanks

This has been a particularly stressful year for much of the concom, and we couldn't have done it without the incredible support, advice, and input of many of you. We are immensely grateful to everyone who has taken us aside and offered us help –whether or not we ended up taking you up on it. In particular, we would like to thank:

- **Andrew January**, for wrangling our website and all things technical, and making hotel bookings and mailouts and the rest a breeze.
- **Lissa Allcock**, for reckless cake-making on a superhuman scale, and for being the voice of Experienced Concom at the other end of a Facebook message pretty much 24/7.
- **Robert Maughan**, for MCing the main concert once more.
- **Rafe Culpin**, for providing an endless treasure trove of filkcon memorabilia; circumstances have meant they're not all on display this weekend, but they're the seed for creating a proper archive and future displays.
- **Deborah Crook**, **Rick Hewett**, and the rest of the tech crew, without whom everything would be Very Quiet Indeed.
- **Ωmega**, for this year's crop of Sams (we've mentioned those once or twice this year, yes?) and **Melusine** for administrating the award.
- **Roger Robinson** - in absentia - for making sure we were all set up for the auction and dealers' table, even though he couldn't be here.
- **Sunnie Larsen** and **Annie Griffith**, for providing the guest bios.
- The many hands making light work (there's a WorldDream filk in there somewhere...) by moving chairs, supporting the tech crew, checking that crew and concom are fed and watered, wrangling children, looking after the dealers' table, helping run the auction, and just generally turning our "Never again!" at the end of the con into a "Well, maybe, one day..."

Membership list

Abi Crook (G)
Alistair Crook (G)
Rachel Crook (G)
Betsy Tinney (G)
Ωmega (G)
Jackie (C)
KT (C)
Emily January (C)
Marilisa (C)
Alex
Alison Richards
Amazing Stace
Amy
Andrew Barton
Andrew January
Anna
Annie Griffith
Aunty Marion
Barbara Stewart
Ben
Bill Sutton
Billy
Blind Lemming Chiffon
Bob Moore
Brenda Sutton
Chantelle
Chris Jolliffe
Chris Power
Christo
Clare
Colin Fine
Colin Tuckley
Dale Williamson
Dave Stevenson
Dave Tinney
David
Debbie Levy
Deborah
Ellie
Faith Dillon-Lee
FanTom
Fhtagn
Franklin
Ginny Ickle
Green Dragon Raphael
Gwen Funnell
Gwenzilla
Hitch
Inamac
Jackie
James
Jane
Janet Johnston
Janet Maughan
Jared
Jessica
John Stewart
Karen Westhead
Kate Soley-Barton
Kathy Westhead
Katy
Lesley Moore
Lisa
Lissa
Liz
Lydia
The Magician
Marcos
Matt
Melusine
Mich
Michael Bernardi
Micken
Mike Richards
Mike Westhead
Miki Dennis
Minnow
Minstrel
Naomi
Nat
Nye
Paul Bristow
Peter Tyers
Peter Wareham
Peter Westhead
Phil
Piers
Pippa
Pug
Rachel
Rafe
Rayner Lucas
Red Dragon Simon
Rhodri James
Rick Hewett
Robert Maughan
Shadow
Shaya
Sib
Silke
Simon
Socrates
Songbird
Steve Macdonald
Steve Melnikoff
Sue Edwards
Sunnie
Susan Booth
Talis
Teddy
Tiggy
Valerie Housden
Wolfgang
(G: Guest
C: Committee)